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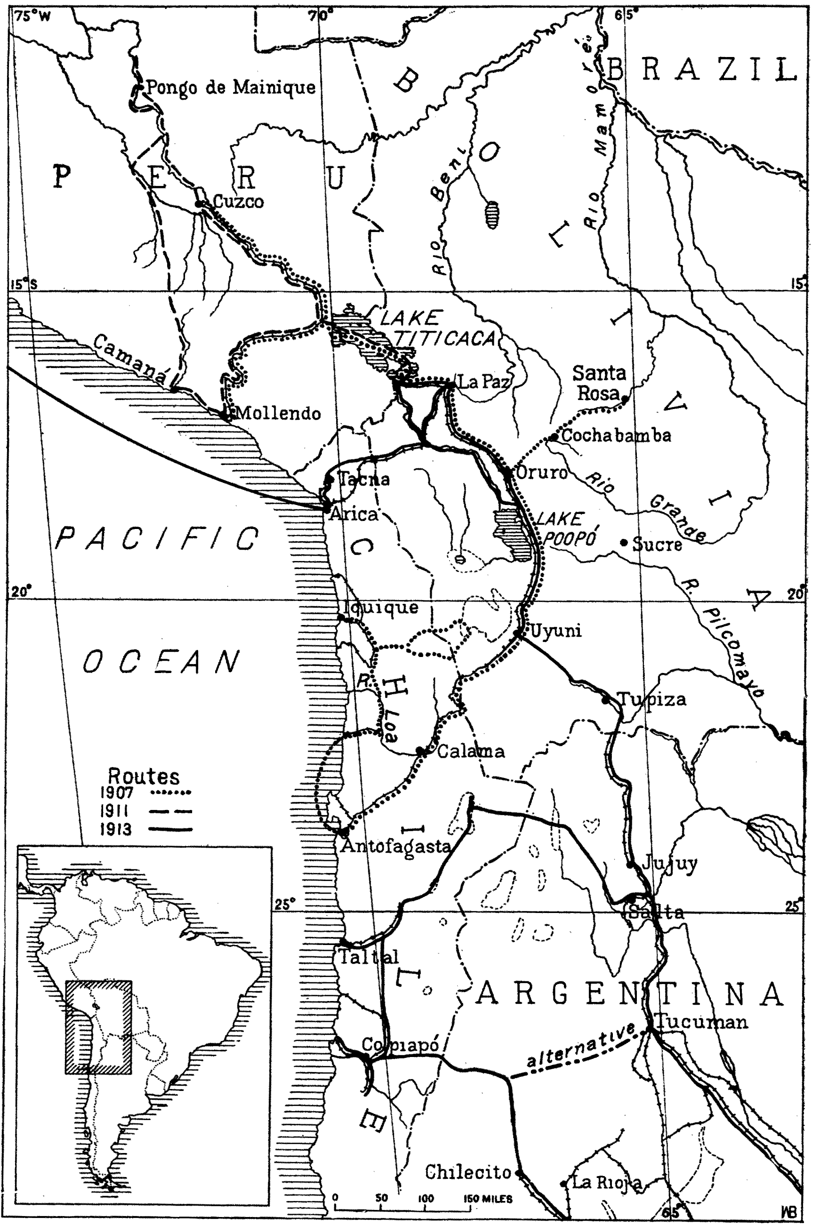
Englanders and 182 sons of New Englanders. These two classes comprised 40 per cent. of the representative men.

When Michigan completes (1) its crop adjustment to soil, climate, and market, and (2) its transportation facilities, it will have secured the maximum agricultural value of its geographical and geological advantages. Its population will then assume a more permanently stable character, similar to that which now characterizes the older European states. This process is well under way, and, though it works slowly, the ultimate results are certain.

PROFESSOR BOWMAN'S EXPEDITION TO THE CENTRAL ANDES

In the period from April to October, 1913, Professor Isaiah Bowman of Yale University will conduct a South American expedition under the auspices of the American Geographical Society of New York. The field of investigation is that part of the Central Andes lying in northwestern Argentina and adjacent portions of northern Chile and southwestern Bolivia. The accompanying map shows the field of Professor Bowman's work, the route he proposes to follow and the routes of his two earlier journeys.

Professor Bowman conducted the Yale South American Expedition of 1907 to northern Chile and Bolivia and was the geographer-geologist of the Yale Peruvian Expedition of 1911. In the first expedition he explored portions of the desert of Atacama and the Maritime Andes, traced the shorelines of the ancient lake on the Bolivian tableland, and descended the Chaparé valley northeast of Cochabamba as far as the border of the Amazonian lowlands. In 1911 he descended the Urubamba between Rosalina and Pongo de Mainique by canoe and surveyed the great bend of that river, again entering the lowlands of the Amazon basin. This journey was recently reported in an article by Professor Bowman entitled "The Cañon of the Urubamba," which appeared in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 44, 1912, pp. 881-897). Later in the year he conducted the geographical and topographical division of the expedition across the Maritime Andes to the coast at Camaná, traversed the coastal desert to Mollendo, and made additional studies on Lake Titicaca and the Desaguadero R. Papers and reports on the two earlier expeditions have been published in the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society,*



Route of Professor Bowman's Expedition to the Central Andes, 1913; also the routes he followed in 1907 and 1911. Scale 1:13,500,000.

the *Geographical Journal* (London), the *Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia,* the *American Journal of Science,* the *Educational Bi-Monthly,* the *Journal of Geography,* the *Zeitschrift für Gletscherkunde* (Vienna), the *Scottish Geographical Magazine,* and the *Yale Alumni Weekly.*

The expedition to the Central Andes will enable Professor Bowman to complete certain lines of investigation upon which he has been engaged since 1907. The results will be published in preliminary form in this *Bulletin* and in final form in a volume entitled "The Central Andes." The subjects of study in the projected field work are primarily the anthropogeography of the region and its relation to the physiography. The investigation of topography, drainage, and climate will thus go hand in hand with the distribution and customs of the people. Part of the work will lie in the driest portions of the Puna of Atacama and the adjacent desert of Atacama where piedmont villages in isolated situations, vast salt plains and lofty tablelands alternate with rugged volcanic masses and snow-capped sierras. It is a region as yet but little known, and some of the most interesting portions have never been studied scientifically. The climatic conditions are of great interest, and the possibility exists of securing critical data on past changes of climate since the region lies in the transition zone of the horse latitudes, between the trades and the westerlies. Added to this is the fact that some of the old historic trade routes cross this lofty desert country. When the Antofagasta railroad extended only as far as Calama (northeast of Antofagasta) mule trains in large numbers passed from the terminus of the line east and south to northwestern Argentina. Later the railroad was extended to Uyuni, and great impetus was given to traffic over the Tarija route to Jujuy and Tucuman. For a time even some of the imports of northwestern Argentina came by way of Cobija, a seaport in what was then Bolivia. These shifting routes of trade have had remarkable effects on the towns and villages scattered along them, not only in stimulating them to an unnatural degree, but also in causing sudden and unnatural decay. An attempt will be made to cross the Andean Cordillera and the desert of Atacama along two different parallels where the contrasts in altitude are most marked and thus to study the distribution of people under extreme conditions of physical environment.

The last part of the field season will be spent in investigating the border of the Titicaca basin and descending the Desaguadero River as far as possible toward Lake Poopó. The elevation of the ancient strand-lines of Lake Minchin, the ancient lake that once occupied a part of the Bolivian alti-plano, or high plateau, will be determined. The relations between this now vanished lake and Lake Titicaca have never been investigated, and the key to the problem must be sought in the outlet of the Titicaca basin. There, also, must be sought the key to much of the earlier history of the Titicaca depression. The Tiahuanaco valley and its celebrated ruins will be studied in relation to the supposed ancient levels of Lake Titicaca and to the limits of food production in the valley to-day.

The expedition will sail for Buenos Aires via Southampton, England, leaving New York on April 26, on the *Oceanic* of the White Star Line. Professor Bowman will be accompanied by Mr. H. S. Palmer, a graduate student in the Department of Geological Sciences at Yale, and for a part of the time also by a surveyor to be employed in South America.

Professor Bowman's field researches in South America have contributed materially to our knowledge of the topography, the fluvial systems and the climatic conditions of the desert, mountain and plateau regions he has traversed; and the emphasis he always places upon the importance of studying the interrelations between man and his environment has added richly to his results. It was highly desirable that Professor Bowman should have an opportunity to complete his work in the part of South America which he will now revisit, and the American Geographical Society is glad to further this consummation.

THE SEVENTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEODETIC ASSOCIATION

By WILLIAM BOWIE
Inspector of Geodetic Work, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

The International Geodetic Association met in conference in the City of Hamburg, Germany, in September, 1912, the delegates being guests of the State of Hamburg. This conference was especially interesting and important, as it was held on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Association.

A formal session opened the conference, with the President of the Association, General Bassot, in the chair. Senator Dr. von Melle of the State of Hamburg delivered the address of welcome, which